

blast was timed to wreak the maximum havoc, as the bomber detonated at the moment that the crowd was largest, when one group was going into a mosque and another was exiting.

In the 10 years of this war, it's the first attack specifically against Shiites, adding a sectarian angle and religious tension that hadn't previously been prevalent in the Afghanistan conflict.

Mr. Speaker, how can we call our occupation of Afghanistan a success when, after 10 years of attacks like this and making a young woman like BiBi who was talked about on the other side of the aisle earlier this morning, make her victimization and her terrorization commonplace. When this is commonplace, we cannot be having success in Afghanistan.

The truth is our continued military presence is aggravating the violence, not containing it, and certainly not stopping it. I'm not saying that Afghanistan will be magically transformed when the last of our troops leaves; but our best hope for peace, for security and stability there is a swift end to this war.

But here's another important thing, Mr. Speaker. If we do this right and have an end to the war that is meaningful, it would mean the beginning of an even more robust engagement with Afghanistan, an engagement based on the principles of SMART Security, in other words, a peaceful partnership based on mutual respect, assistance to strengthening Afghanistan's democratic infrastructure, not with military force, but with civilian support.

SMART Security would empower the Afghan people investing in their hopes and dreams, instead of bringing further violence to their country. Military redeployment out of Afghanistan can't and won't mean a complete withdrawal from Afghanistan.

So I hope that every single one of my colleagues who has eagerly rubber-stamped war spending year after year, even while complaining about the United States budget deficits, will show the same enthusiasm and the same support for a humanitarian surge in Afghanistan.

I have to shake my head, Mr. Speaker, every time I hear someone say we can't afford such generous foreign aid. Talk about penny wise and pound foolish. Last fiscal year we spent roughly \$2.5 billion on development assistance in Afghanistan. Mr. Speaker, we go through that much war spending in Afghanistan every single week. The bottom line is that smart investments provide more security at a fraction of the cost, pennies on the dollar compared to waging war.

Allowing extreme poverty and widespread unemployment to prevail throughout Afghanistan imperils our national security as much as anything else. Where there's hopelessness, that's where insurgents get a foothold. Nothing breeds terrorism like hardship, deprivation, and despair.

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Mr. Speaker, because it's the right thing to do and because it's the best way to protect America, let's bring our troops home and make the transition to SMART Security. And let's do it now.

REGS AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. BERG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, as I talk with North Dakotans, it's clear we're all frustrated with Washington.

ObamaCare is a disastrous law that 70 percent of North Dakotans do not want. Unemployment remains unacceptably high, making it clear that President Obama's government stimulus did not work. Washington bailed out Wall Street while Main Street continues to suffer. And Washington persistently fails to uphold its responsibility to balance the budget.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration continues to pursue overreaching regulations that create more redtape and uncertainty for North Dakota's families, farms, and small businesses. These burdensome regulations threaten job creation, and they are the biggest challenge facing our economy. We need to take serious steps today to halt the Obama administration's regulatory overreach.

That's why I announced my REGS Agenda: Reduce the redtape; Empower the States; Grow the economy, and Stop President Obama's overreach.

This agenda is the result of talking with North Dakotans and learning about the impact of senseless regulations on North Dakota's farmers, ranchers, and small businessmen.

During my recent regulations tour, I spoke with energy providers who are concerned about the EPA's regional haze requirements that could cost North Dakota over \$700 million just to comply. Farmers told me about the forever-changing fuel storage mandates that added new costs. And I heard how the new EPA regulations on gas generators could cost a North Dakota school district a quarter of a million dollars. This cost is not because they are using generators more than allowed; the cost is because the EPA simply doesn't like which hours they're using it.

The REGS Agenda is also the product of feedback I've received from North Dakotans at 10 public town hall hearings I've held this year and through the countless emails, letters, and phone calls. The message was clear: Washington is not the solution, it's the problem.

To get our economy moving again and our country back on track, President Obama and congressional leaders could learn a lot about how we do things in North Dakota. The REGS Agenda is also the product of legisla-

tion I've been working on. Last month, I introduced a bill that would rein in the Obama administration's Federal takeover of the State regional haze management, which threatens to create more business uncertainty and stifle job creation. It will also increase the energy costs for American families and small business. And today, I will proudly vote in support of the REINS Act, which is a much-needed measure to rein in this regulatory overreach.

But this agenda is not simply the sum of this past year; it's also a path moving forward to rein in the overreaching, out-of-touch government regulations that burden small business, farms, and ranches each and every day. I will continue to add to this agenda to fight against the job-killing regulations that threaten small businesses' ability to create jobs and grow our economy.

The number one thing we can do to get our economy back on track, to give small business certainty, to grow and create jobs, is to rein in President Obama's overbearing regulations. They're burdening job creation, and it adds more cost and more redtape. Through the REGS Agenda, I'll continue fighting to bring regulatory relief to the American people.

VOTER SUPPRESSION LAWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, first let me take a moment to thank the gentlelady from Ohio, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, for her fearless and tireless leadership in protecting our democracy and the bedrock, of course, of our country, and that is the right to vote. She has done an amazing job keeping us very focused and pointed with all of the information we need to try to address this in a big way.

Once again, I am here today to sound the alarm because, make no mistake about it, the fundamental right to vote which is at the heart of our democracy, it is under attack. Republican legislators and governors are proposing partisan laws that require voters to show government-approved photo IDs before voting.

Now, I came to this floor years ago after the stolen Presidential elections in Florida and in Ohio to protest the results of those two elections that were filled with voter suppression. It worked for the Republicans before, and so legislators in 42 States on this map of shame have doubled down on these strategies to make it harder for certain communities to vote.

These proposals would disenfranchise 21 million Americans. That's over 1 in 10 eligible voters in America who do not have adequate identification. Now, how in the world, for example, would my 100-year-old aunt get her birth certificate to prove who she is to get a government ID to vote? She wouldn't know where to start, nor how to pay